

Serial No.: 09/807,689
Group Art Unit: 2832

In the Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (canceled).
3. (canceled).
4. (canceled).
5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented) A relay comprising: a base that defines a base plane; a magnet system arranged on the base including a coil, a core and an armature; at least one pair of closing spring contacts and at least one pair of opening spring contacts, each pair of spring contacts including a passive and an active spring contact, and each spring contact being secured in the base, standing essentially perpendicular to the base plane, and having at an end remote from the base a contact portion; and an actuating slide movable parallel to the base plane to act on each active spring contact,

the slide being configured to act on the active spring contact of the pair of opening spring contacts at a different distance from the base than the distance from the base at which the slide acts on the corresponding closing spring contacts.

7. (previously presented) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein the slide acts on the active opening spring contact at a greater distance from the base than the distance from the base at which it acts on the active closing spring contacts.

8. (previously presented) The relay according to Claim 7, wherein all of the active spring contacts are of the same configuration.

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9. (previously presented) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein in the untensioned condition all the active spring contacts adopt an open position with respect to their associated passive spring contacts, and in that the active opening spring contacts are switched by the force of a restoring spring and the active closing spring contacts are switched by the force of the magnet system to their respective closing position.
10. (previously presented) The relay according to Claim 6, wherein the magnet system has a U-shaped core with a core limb lying inside the coil and a yoke limb lying outside the coil, with the cross-section of iron within the core limb being increased by an additional flux member.
11. (previously presented) A relay comprising at least one active closing spring contact having a contact portion thereon, at least one active opening spring contact having a contact portion thereon, and a slide, the spring contacts being fixed at a base plane remote from the contact portions, and the slide configured to move parallel to the base plane and to engage the active opening spring contact and the active closing spring contact at different distances from the base plane.
12. (previously presented) The relay according to claim 11 further comprising a passive opening spring contact and a closing spring contact corresponding to each active opening spring contact and closing spring contact respectively, and wherein the slide has blocking walls extending between and separating each pair of corresponding spring contacts.
13. (previously presented) The relay according to claim 12 wherein at least one of the blocking walls has a recess to accommodate the contact portion of the corresponding spring contact.

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14. (currently added) A relay comprising:

at least one active closing spring contact having a contact portion thereon, the closing spring contact being fixed at a base plane remote from the contact portions;

at least one active opening spring contact having a contact portion thereon, the closing spring contact being fixed at a base plane remote from the contact portions; and

an integral slide moveable parallel to the base plane and having a first rib positioned at a first acting point to engage the opening spring contact portion at a first distance from the base plane and a second rib positioned at a second acting point to engage the closing spring contact portion, the first rib and the second rib being located at different distances from the base plane relative to one another.

15. (currently added) The relay according to claim 14 wherein the integral slide is stepped relative to the base plane such that the first rib is farther from the base plane than the second rib.